

REMENDER • CRAIG • BOYD

DEADLY CLASS™



1988



#28



The Story So Far...

Saya Kuroki barely had time to wash the blood of her former ward and boyfriend Marcus, whom she ran through with her heirloom katana during the Kings Dominion Freshman Finals, off her hands before a new crop of students are enrolled in the school, eager to begin their training to become assassins.

The freshmen are guppies in shark-infested waters. The student council, headed by Shabnam and Grogda, is mercilessly consolidating its control of the school using intrigue, subterfuge, and gossip. Saya is a thorn in their side--one they mean to tend to permanently.

Tasked by Headmaster Lin to take a new ward under her wing, Saya reluctantly begins mentoring Zenzele, a freshman from war-torn Ethiopia.

But on Halloween, her ward sneaks off the school grounds, and Saya tracks the wayward Zenzele; fellow freshman Quan, the Vietnamese-American rockabilly; and Helmut, the East German metalhead, to a bar in Little Tokyo.

It turns out the bar is a front for a local Yakuza syndicate that's loyal to Saya's devilish brother, a Japanese crime lord who hungers for something his sister stole from him many years ago.

Saya and the freshmen barely make their escape across the rooftops. When Saya falls behind, Quan doubles back for her. But rather than lending a helping hand, Quan gives her a dozen stabs with his butterfly knife!

As Saya lies bleeding and unconscious, Quan takes her katana and gives it to her pursuers along with an order:

"Bring Saya to her brother..."

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WES CRAIG • Artist
JORDAN BOYD • Colorist
RUS WOOTON • Letterer
SEBASTIAN GIRNER • Editor

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PUERTO PEÑASCO, MEXICO
NOVEMBER 3RD, 1988



I CAN SEE PAPA
SURFING OUT THERE.

WAVING TO ME.

FROZEN IN MEMORIES
ON GRAINY 8MM FILM.

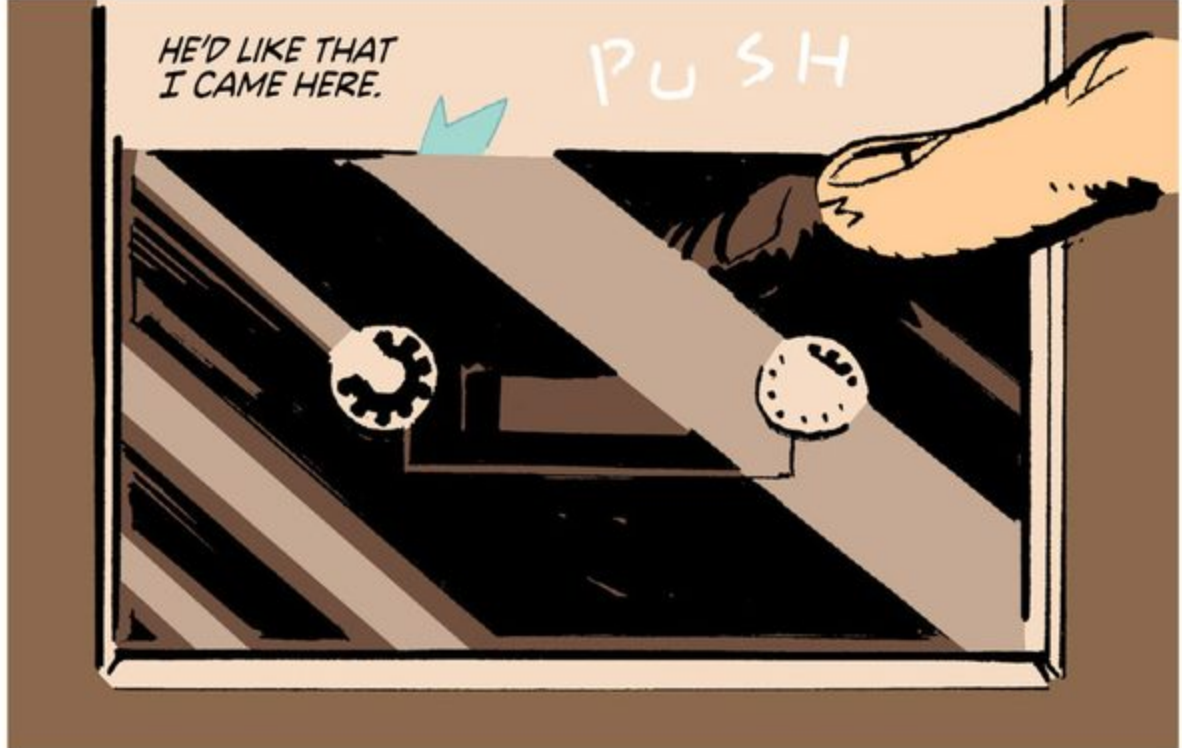
THIS WAS HIS
FAVORITE
PLACE.



HE TOLD ME HE FOUND
GOD IN THE WAVES.

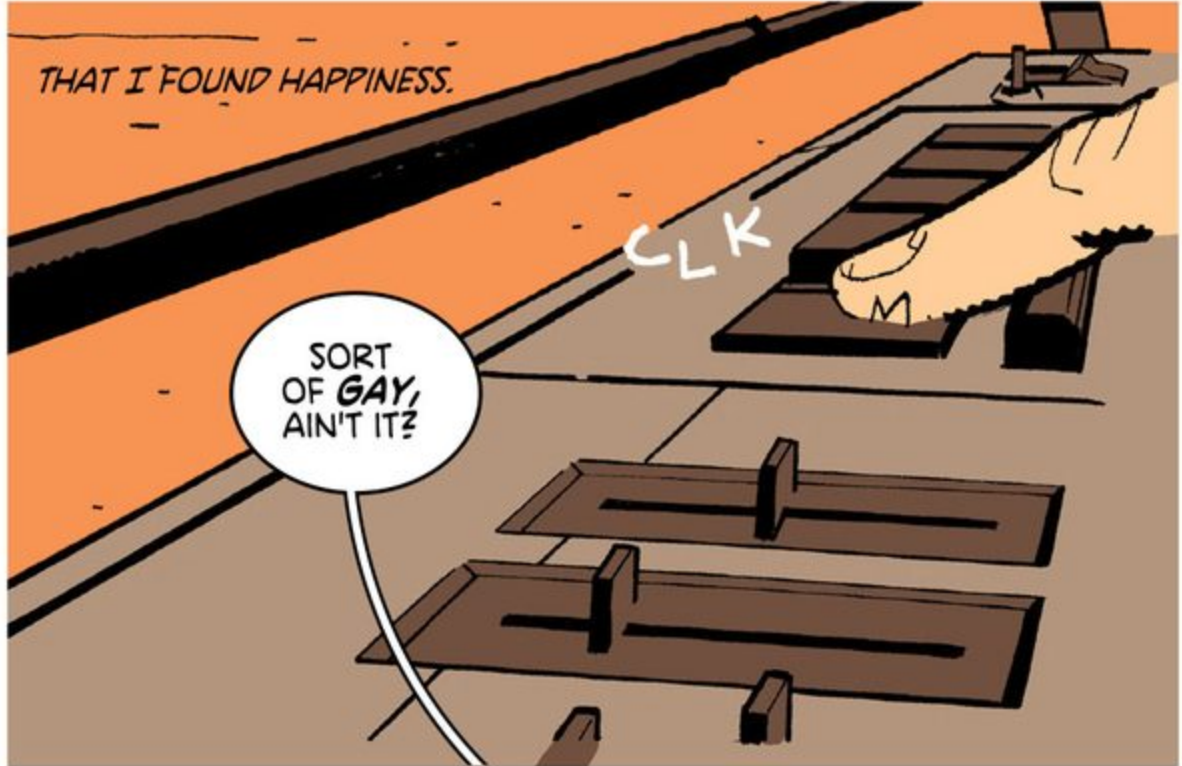


THAT WAS WHERE HIS
HIGHER POWER LIVED.



HE'D LIKE THAT
I CAME HERE.

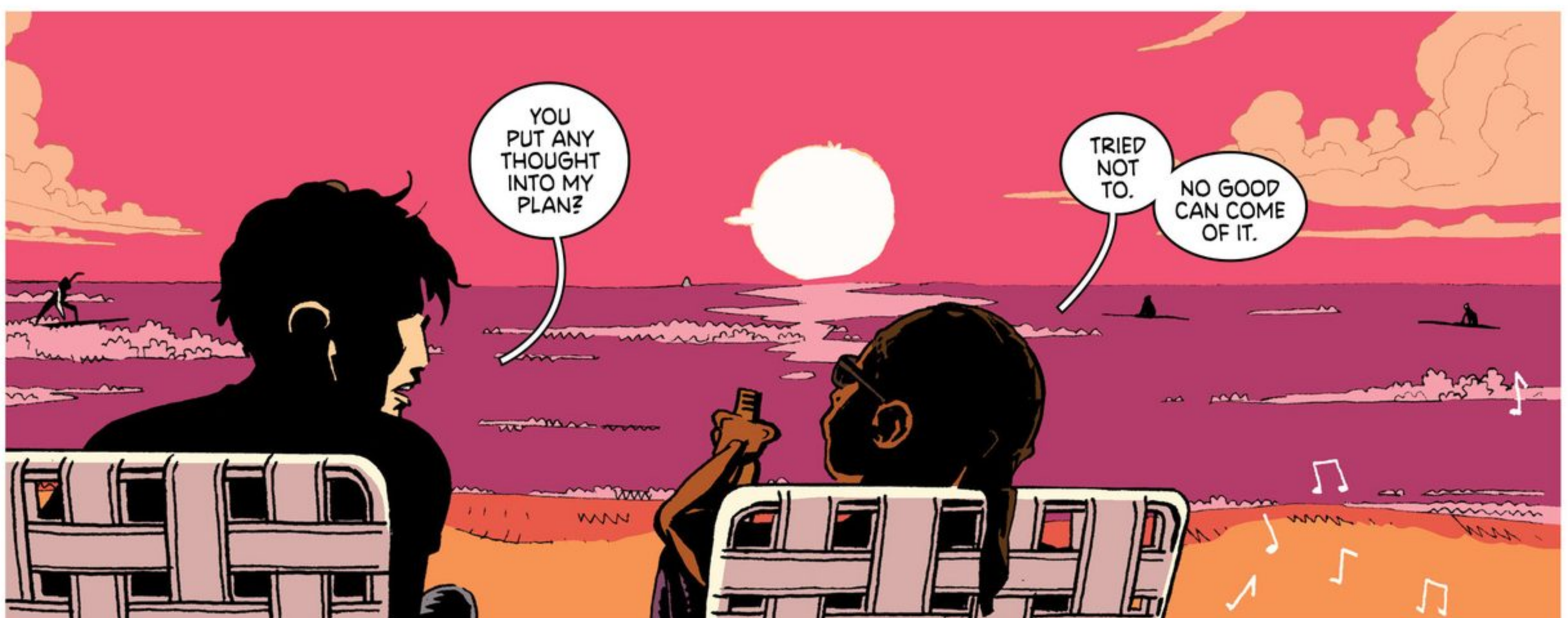
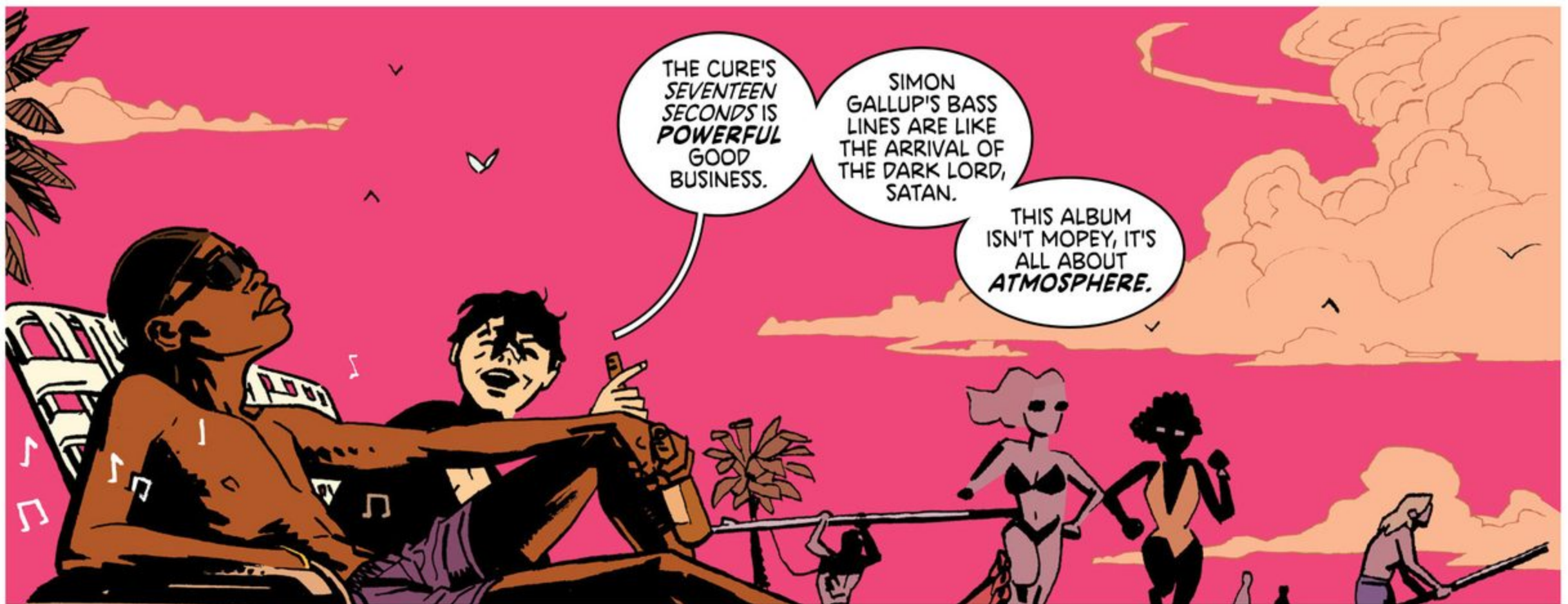
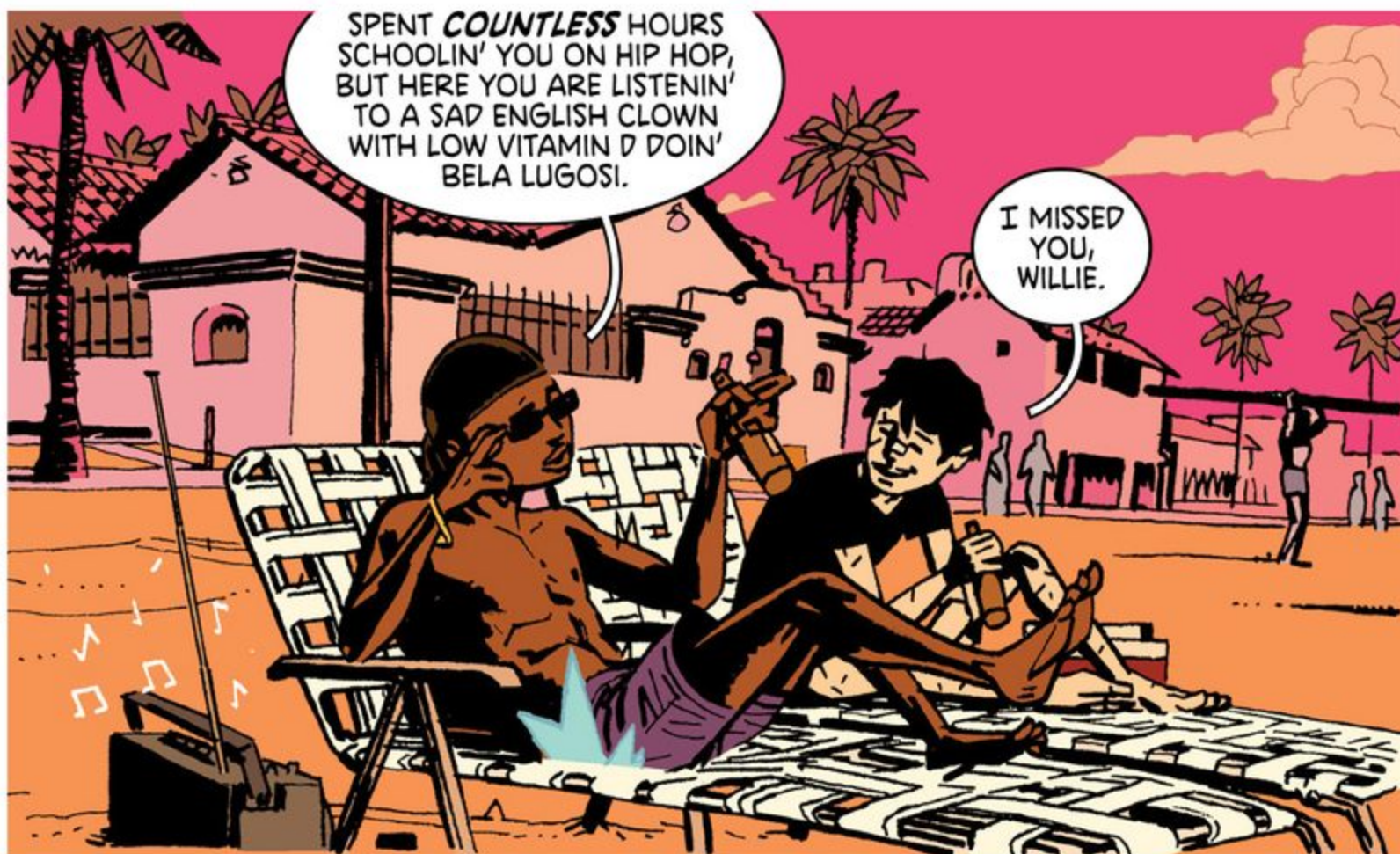
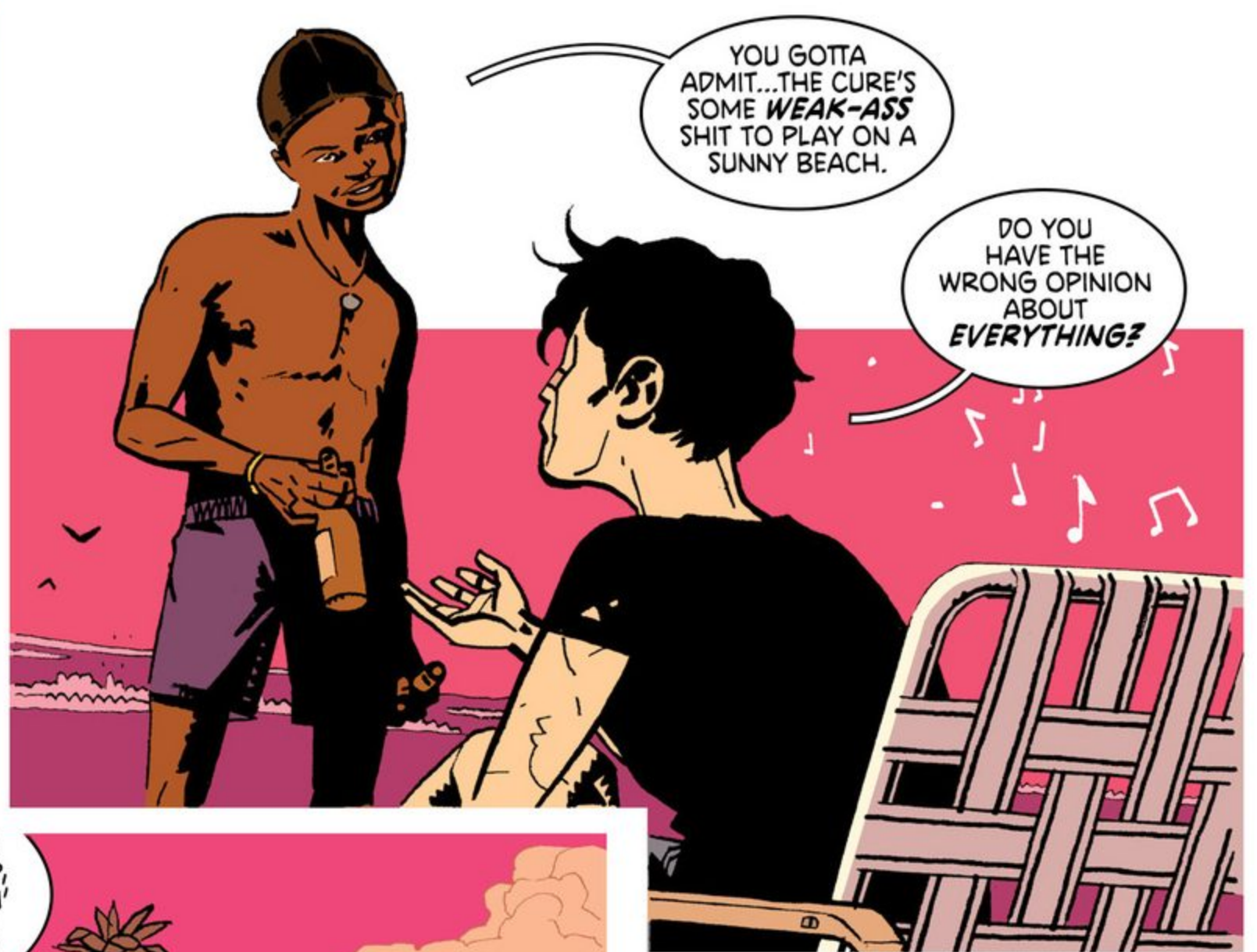
PUSH

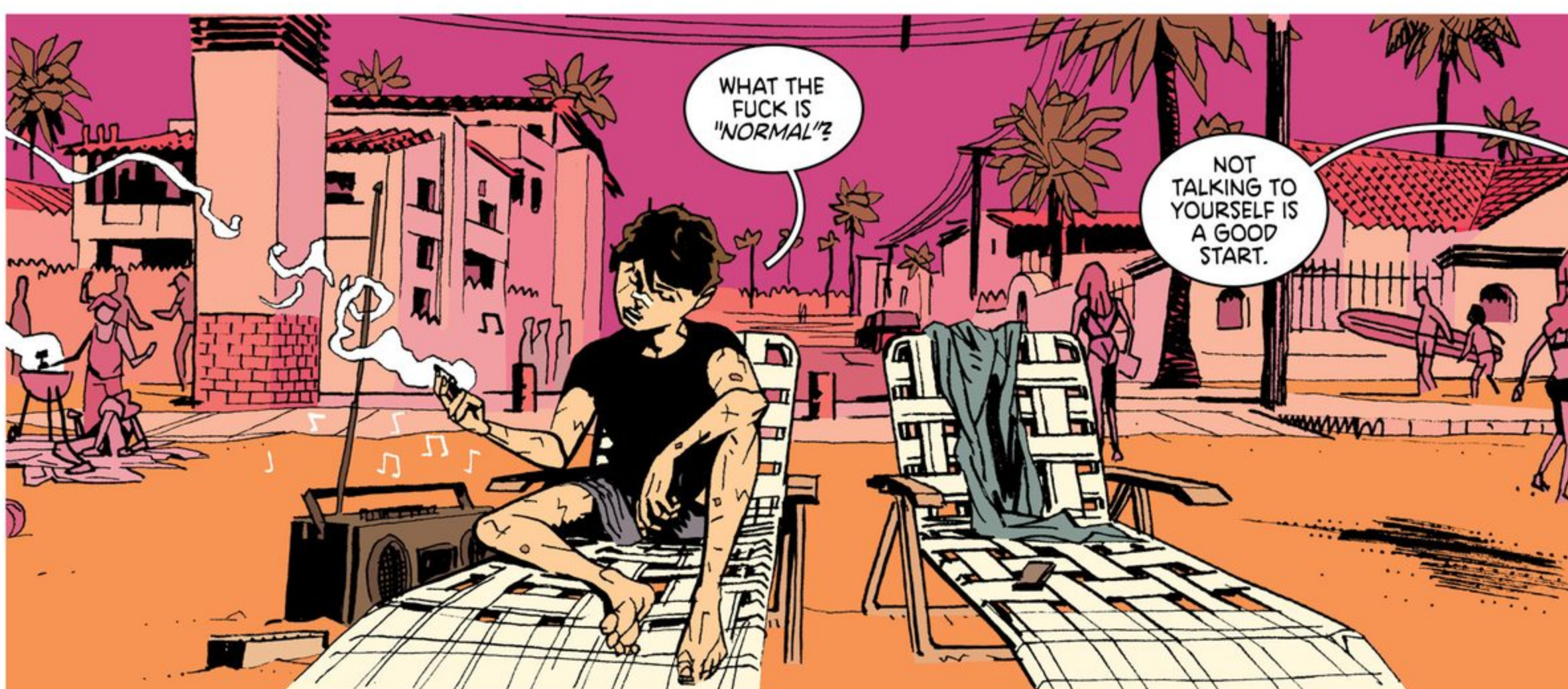


THAT I FOUND HAPPINESS.

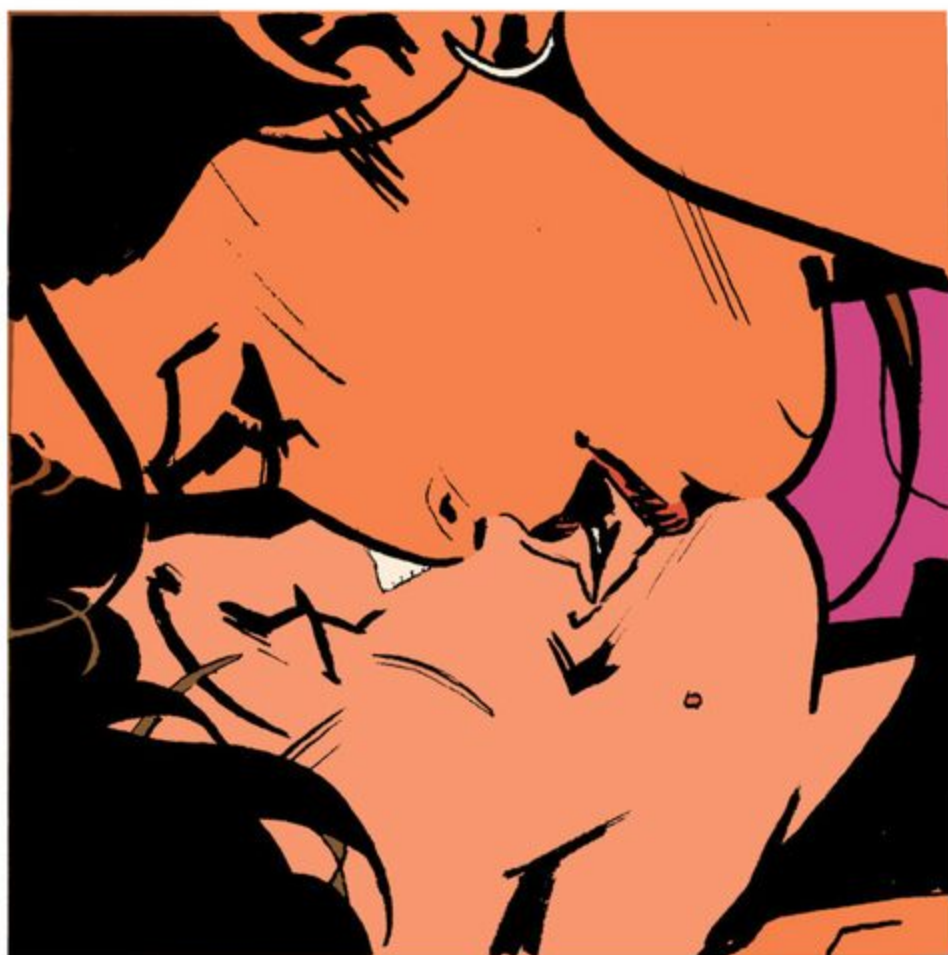
CLK

SORT OF GAY,
AIN'T IT?









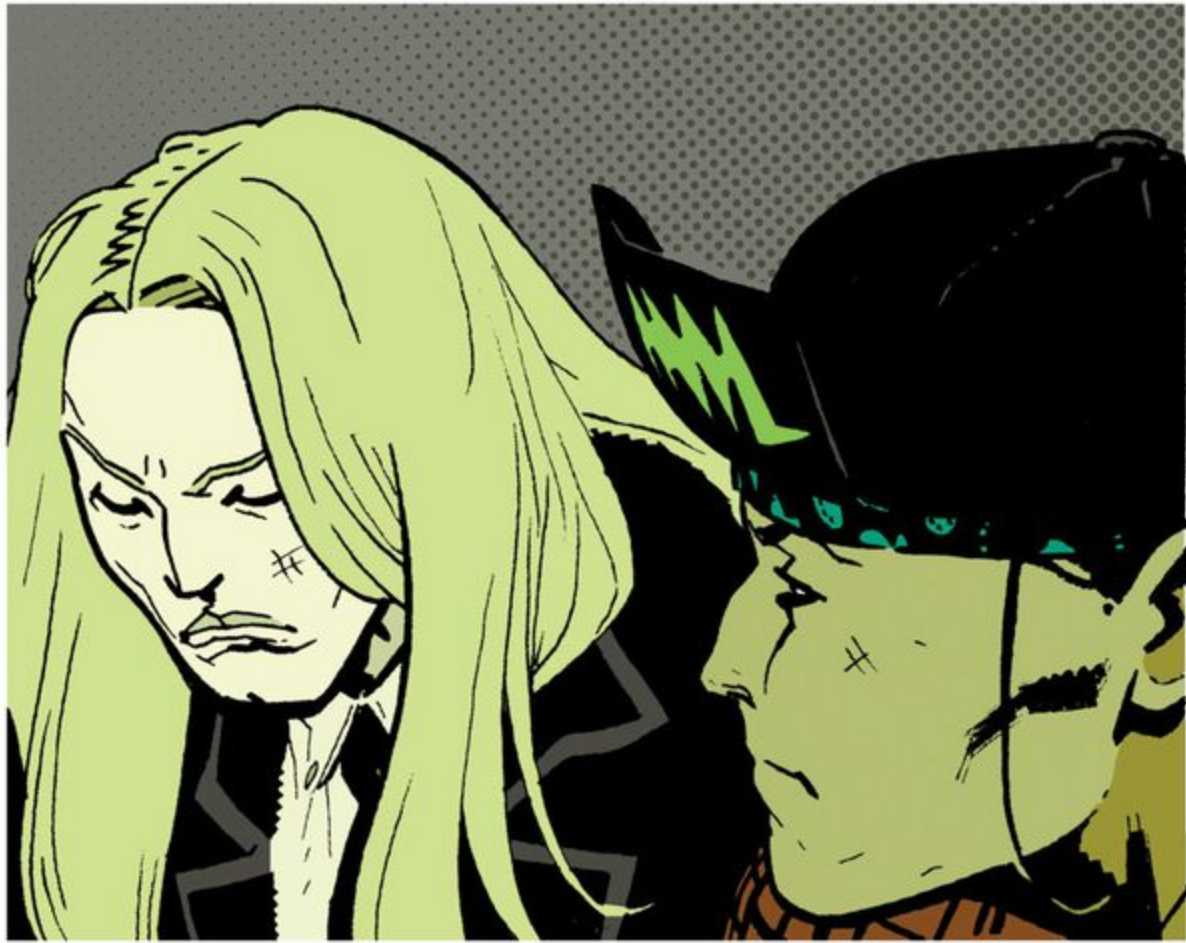
THINGS ARE GOOD.



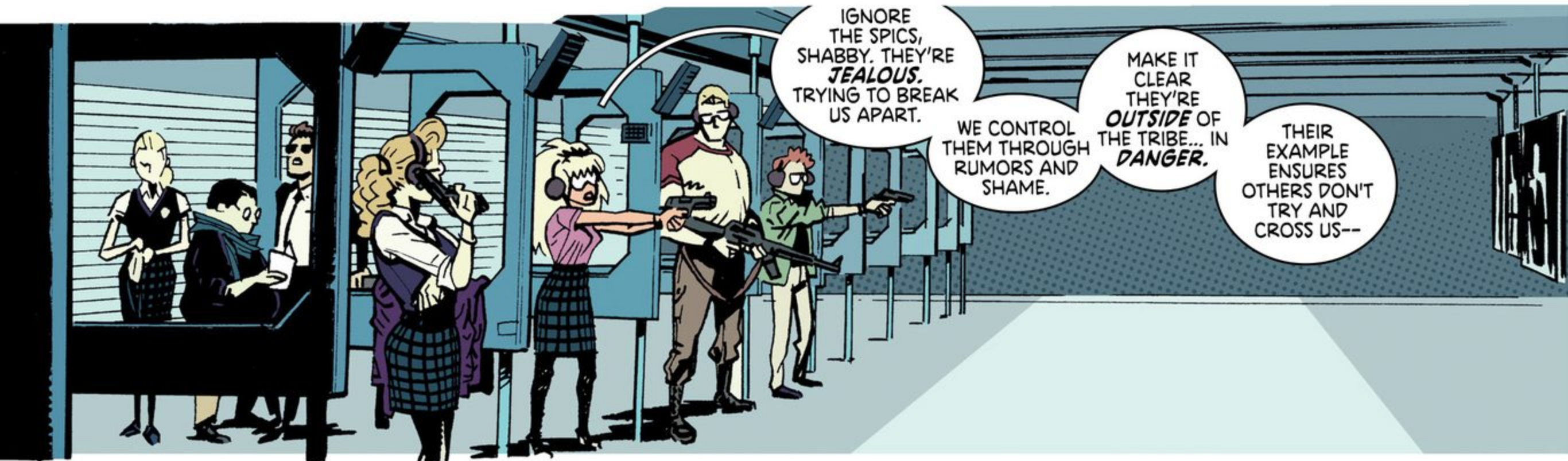












IGNORE THE SPICS, SHABBY. THEY'RE **JEALOUS**. TRYING TO BREAK US APART.

WE CONTROL THEM THROUGH RUMORS AND SHAME.

MAKE IT CLEAR THEY'RE **OUTSIDE** OF THE TRIBE... IN **DANGER**.

THEIR EXAMPLE ENSURES OTHERS DON'T TRY AND CROSS US--



--THEY KNOW THEY'LL BE **NEXT**.

MORE **INFERNO**. BHA!

AN INFERNO IS EXACTLY WHERE THIS COMIC SHOULD END UP!



AWFUL!

WORST CROSSOVER **EVER**.

YOU SHOULD NEVER MIX THE X-MEN WITH THE SUPERNATURAL.

KILL ME.



IT'S JUST **TOO MANY** THINGS!

GENETIC MUTATION, DEMON LORDS, A CLONE OF JEAN GREY--IT'S A SOUP OF DISPARATE IDEAS!

"THE GOBLIN QUEEN," UGH--WORST CHARACTER NAME **EVER**.



DUDE, YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH CORPORATE-OWNED, COLORFUL PUNCH PEOPLE!

THERE ARE **REAL** PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD, AND YOU SAVE YOUR RAGE FOR THE GOBLIN QUEEN.



YOU KNOW WHAT YOU **SHOULD** DO?

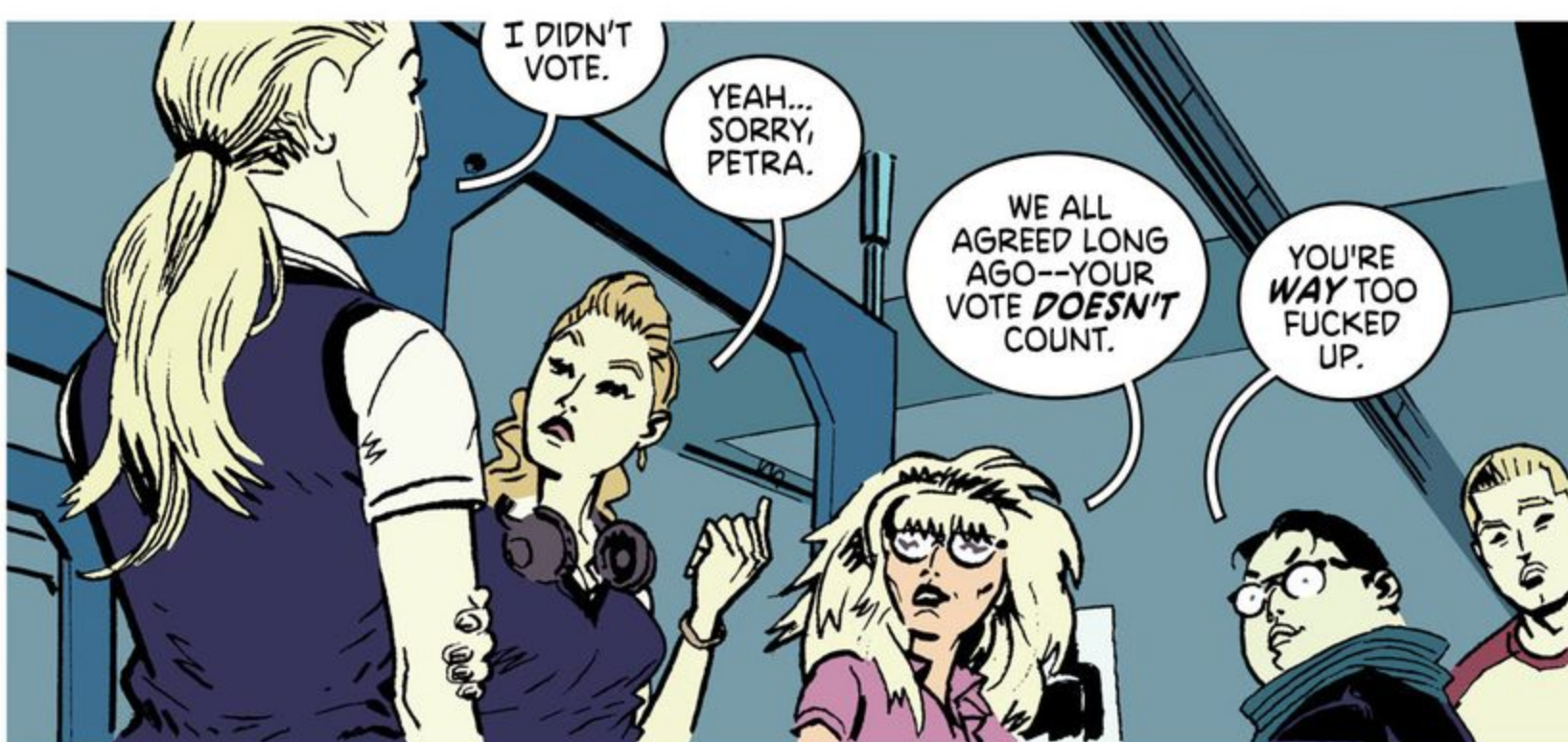
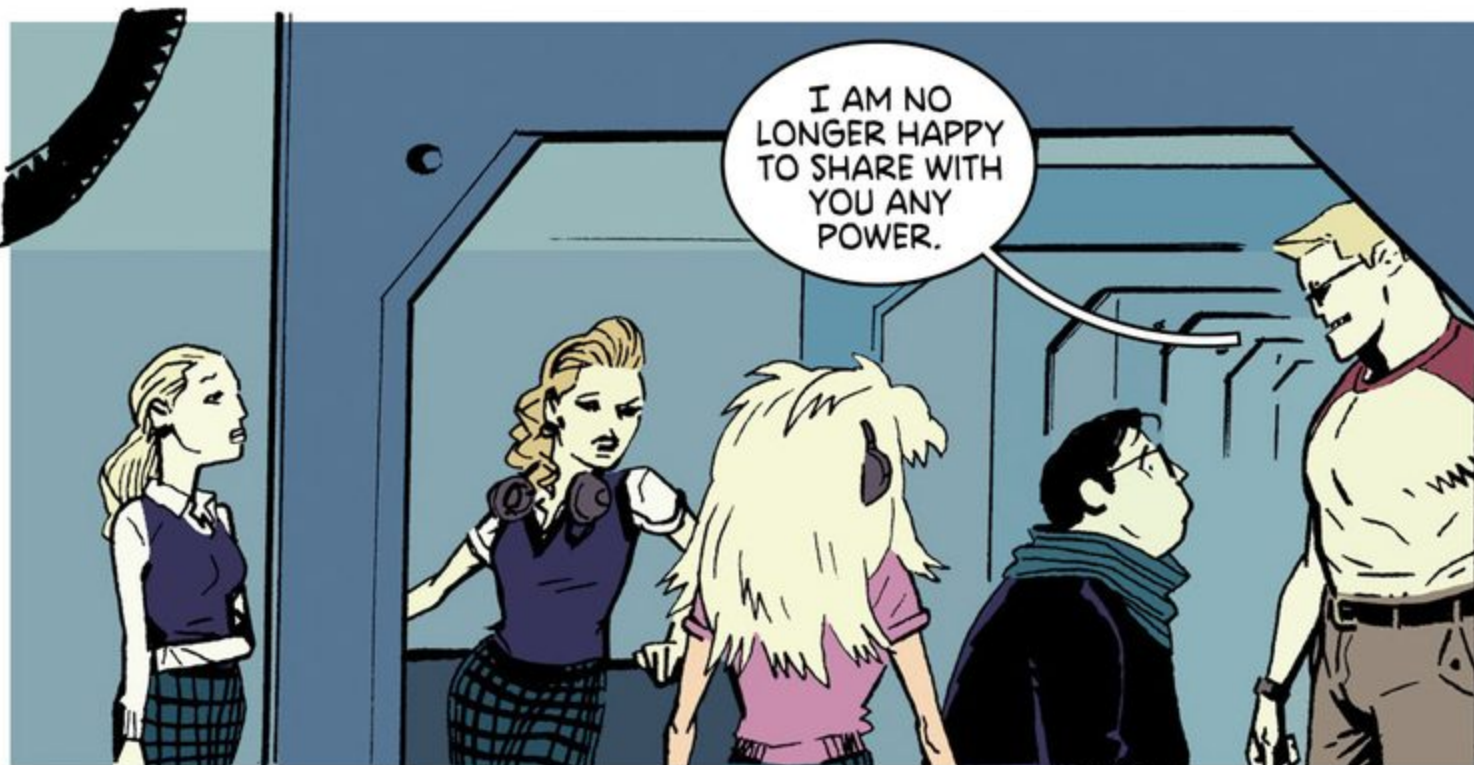
PRETEND YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT THE REAL-WORLD ISSUES NOT BEING PERFECT IN YOUR SUPER-HERO COMICS. THAT WAY YOU CAN LOOK LIKE YOU CARE ABOUT THE REAL WORLD WHILE STILL SCREAMING ABOUT COMIC BOOKS.

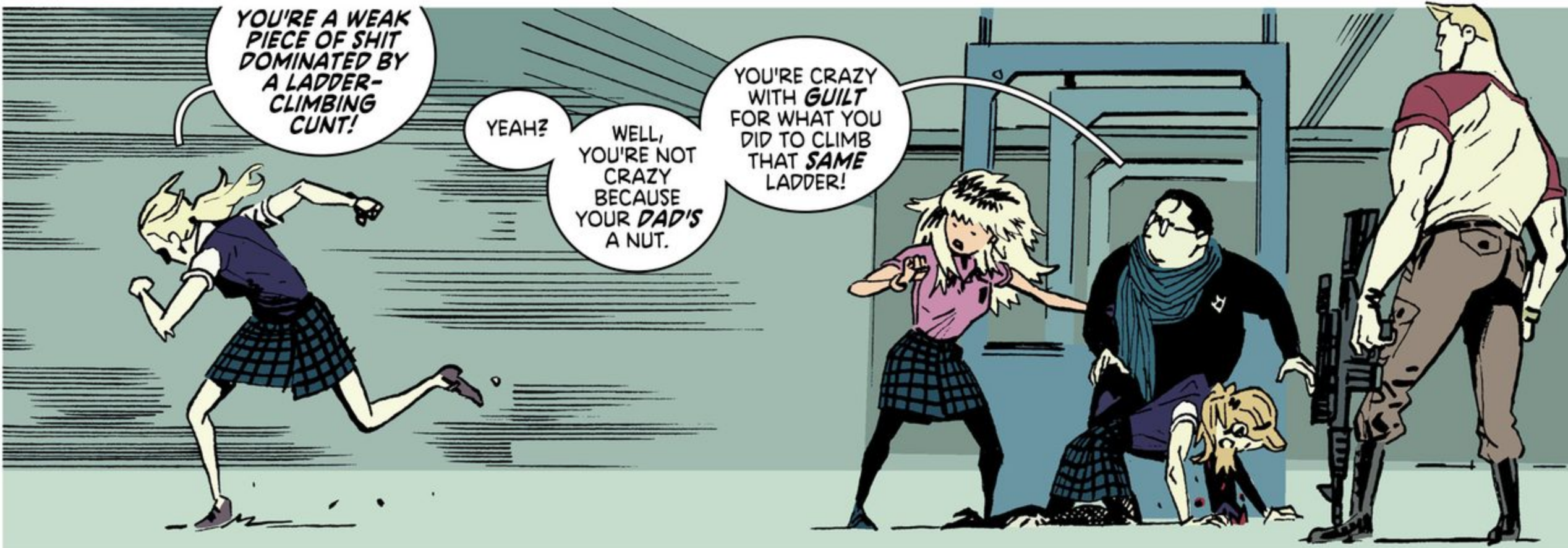


SHABNAM. LOOK! A **BULLSEYE!**

PLUS, YOU GOT A REAL-LIFE **GOBLIN QUEEN** TO WORRY ABOUT.











I USED TO THINK THIS JOURNAL HE DUMPED HIS SHIT IN WAS A WEAKNESS. WHY PUT ALL THAT ON PAPER? WHY EVER LET ANYONE READ IT?

HE THOUGHT ANYONE ROTTEN ENOUGH TO READ SOMEONE ELSE'S PRIVATE JOURNAL DESERVED TO READ HIS DISSECTION OF THEM.

I READ HIS JOURNAL THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FINALS BEGAN. AND, YES, READ WHAT HE THOUGHT ABOUT ME. AND, YES, HE WAS RIGHT.

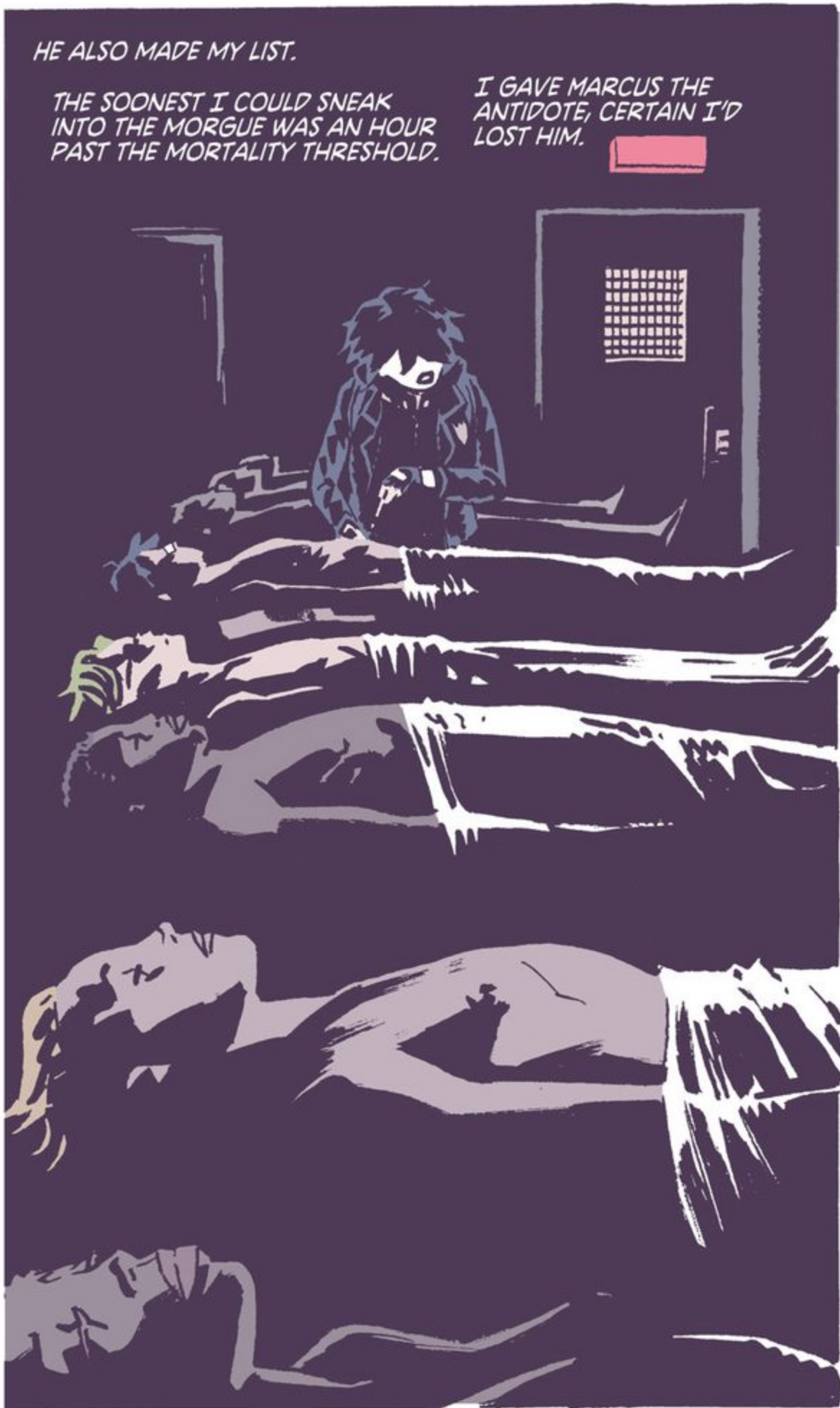
I'D LOST SIGHT OF ANYTHING OTHER THAN SUCCESS. EVERYTHING ELSE JUST FADED AWAY. AND ANYONE IN MY WAY...



MY BLADE SLID PAST ANY MAJOR ORGANS OR VERTEBRAE. THE POISON BROUGHT HIS HEART TO A NEAR STANDSTILL, ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU APPEAR DEAD WHILE KEEPING BLOOD FLOWING TO THE BRAIN.

BUT I WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE WILLIE. THE HARDEST THING I'VE EVER DONE IS WATCH VIKTOR CARRY HIS BODY LIKE A DEAD DEER. VIKTOR WAS ALREADY ON MY LIST, NOW HE'S ON THE TOP.

NONE OF WILLIE'S FAMILY OR FRIENDS WOULD COME TO HIS FUNERAL. I HEARD THE NEW LEADER OF N.W.O. SAY IF HE HADN'T BEEN A BITCH HE'D STILL BE ALIVE.



HE ALSO MADE MY LIST.

THE SOONEST I COULD SNEAK INTO THE MORGUE WAS AN HOUR PAST THE MORTALITY THRESHOLD.

I GAVE MARCUS THE ANTIDOTE, CERTAIN I'D LOST HIM.



BUT MARCUS' HEART WAS STRONG.

HAD A REASON TO BEAT.

THE SWEETEST ROCKET FUEL KNOWN.

REVENGE.

I CALMED HIM DOWN. TOLD HIM WHAT HAPPENED. BUT SPARED HIM WHAT HAPPENED TO BILLY. HE COULDN'T HANDLE THAT. I CAN'T HANDLE THAT.

STILL WAKE UP EVERY NIGHT THINKING ABOUT HOW HE WENT.

INSTEAD, I TOLD HIM MARIA'S ALIVE AND WHERE TO FIND HER. A FACT I'D SAT ON FOR A LONG TIME.

WHICH MAKES ME AN ASSHOLE.

I ASKED MY ABOUT THE BEACH HE USED TO TALK ABOUT, PUERTO PEÑASCO. THE ONE HIS DAD SURFED.



...GET MARIA AND GO THERE.

MAKE ME A PROMISE.

I PROMISED TO GET REVENGE FOR OUR FRIENDS, AND HE PROMISED TO NEVER COME BACK.



TAKE HER TO THAT BEACH.

FORGET THIS PLACE.

BE HAPPY.



SAYA, I...



YEAH.



ME, TOO.



PUERTO PEÑASCO.



EVERYTHING ENDS BADLY.

YOU GOT
SOME
PLANS?

BETRAYAL?

KENJI!
PLEASE!
YOU'VE GONE
TOO FAR!

I CAN'T
LET YOU--
AAHHG!

BE AMAZED
WHAT YOU
CAN DO,
MOM.

PUT
YOUR
MIND TO
IT.

YOU CAN
DO ANY-
THING.

NO...
DON'T...

TO BE CONTINUED...

DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Send comments and questions to
[WriteRemender@gmail.com!](mailto:WriteRemender@gmail.com)
Mark letters "OK to print".

Well now! Things are heating up all over the place, it seems. Even with Marcus and Maria (mostly) alive and (arguably) well on a beach in Mexico, the scars they suffered at the hands of Master Lin and their former classmates cut deep, and sometimes you need to tear a wound open again before it'll heal right. Marcus isn't one to leave well enough alone, is he? And what of Saya and her family feud in the rain-slicked neon streets of Tokyo? All the chickens are coming home to roost in the next few issues, so let's take some letters!

Hello again Mr. Remender

I'm writing to you and your staff for another fantastic job on DEADLY CLASS. Last time I wrote to you, I stated that I liked Saya along with Marcus and Maria, but I was unsure about her and deem her as a threat toward Marcus. Now after reading issue 27 I can safely say that I understand why she is act a certain way and that is because of her family, and I'm happy readers got a chance to understand her more. I want to say I feel like her brother is a lost cause, but I feel like that there is a reason on why he is evil toward her. I have the feeling we are going to see more to come regarding Saya and her family.

For now, I have some questions. Question number one, with Marcus and Maria back in the picture, are we going to see them go back to the school and was it a plot by the headmaster to save Maria by having Saya faked Marcus death to do it?

Question number two, will Marcus learned what Petra has done and get revenge for Billy?

And for the last question, do you believe that each of the characters in DEADLY CLASS could be seen as good or evil in some different perspective way even those they are attending a school to be an assassin? From my point of view, none of the characters are good or have an innocent vibe to them. (okay maybe the new guys that Saya is tasked to watch over could be seen as the good guys, but that a big maybe.)

I liked Brandy Lynn because of her personality and how dangerous she could be, but I don't think she is a good guy. That like saying Victor is the sweetest guy you can ever meet in DEADLY CLASS and he would never bully you or try to kill you. Anyway,

great job for issue 27 I cannot wait to see what else you guys have in store for us fans.

Emmanuel Boyd

Welcome back, Emmanuel! Your letter and questions address some important points, a few of which I'm sure you'll see have been touched upon in this very issue! Saya's past was a story we long held back. Really, originally we were going to tell it in the second or third arc, but we kept moving it back because we wanted it to have maximum impact at just the right time, and now that time finally came. That's not the end of her or her family's story by a long shot--we're just getting started! To your other questions:

As you read in this issue, Marcus has some unfinished business back at the school. Even if he'd be better off leaving well enough alone, do you think he can? And now that Quan knows where he and Maria are hiding, does it even matter?

You're pretty good at this! Petra is having some trouble dealing with the ramifications of what she's done to get where she is. Do you think there's hope for her?

There's no true or false answer to this one. Every character in DEADLY CLASS has sins and virtues, faults and values. And I think no one is truly beyond redemption, but some people do really seem to go the extra mile to convince you otherwise. Characters like Brandy are steeped so deep in a hateful and destructive world view, one that is cultivated and weaponized in a place like Kings Dominion, that it seems almost impossible to think she might change her ways, or even consider she might be wrong. So, with her I'm not sure, but that's just me. We've seen Viktor has a tender side, but he also has no qualms about gunning down unarmed kids his own age. Marcus is a big softy, but there's enough blood on his hands to write a book with. It's important to us that these characters feel real and honest, and that includes having the potential to be monsters as well as angels. To be people, really, if you get down to it.

DEADLY CLASS Team,

I continue to enjoy DEADLY CLASS. It is the series I most look forward to with every issue. I am in awe of Wes' artwork. His style seems simple at first but I find myself spending more time studying and appreciating the illustrations than I do with other titles that have tons of details and rendering. He expresses so much with such a measured approach.

The color is perfect with Wes' illustrations. His not necessarily flattering character renderings don't glamorize the figures but they fit the tone of the story perfectly. I was wondering, how would Wes describe his style? How would Rick and the rest of the team? I'm looking forward to more amazing work!

Corey Hall,
Vernon, NY

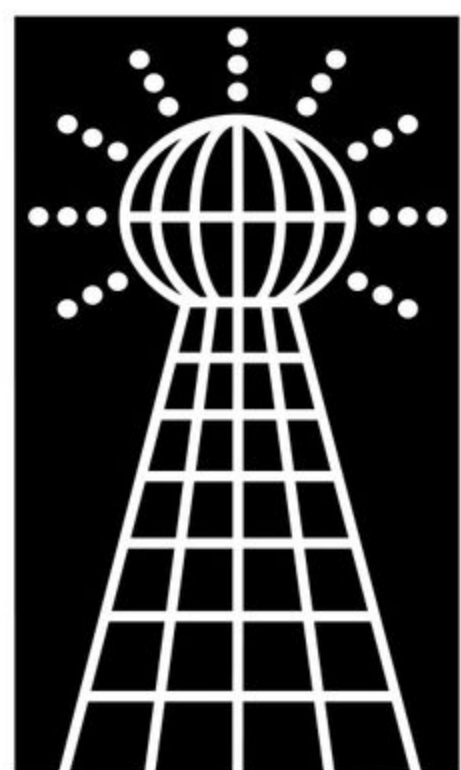
P.S. So excited for the TV adaptation!

Thanks, Corey! Wes and Jordan are an unstoppable art team of awesomeness. Wes' work really is an inspiration. I think he's one of the most inspiring artists working today; his page layouts and attention to the most minute details really makes poring over his pages a reward. I'm still finding small details in issues he drew a few years ago now!

That's all for this month! Check back with us for DEADLY CLASS #29, when we dive a bit further into the gore-soaked halls of Kings Dominion and the power struggle that's heating up to a final showdown!

SG





GIANT GENERATOR

GREETINGS READERS!

Now that Rick has introduced the GIANT GENERATOR line of creator-owned comics, I wanted to introduce some of these fine books to those of you who maybe only follow one or the other. Getting into new comics can be tricky. Maybe you like Rick's style and the kinds of huge-concept, fast-paced stories he gravitates towards, or the stellar artists he loves to work with, but you don't know what to try next? Well, wonder no more, because we're presenting a fast rundown of all of Rick's recent comics. See if any of these spark the old interest!

***BLACK SCIENCE*, with MATTEO SCALERA & MORENO DINISIO**

A furiously paced, colorful, pulp sci-fi adventure following Grant McKay, an anarchist scientist who successfully builds a device that lets him travel to any imaginable dimension and then promptly get lost in them. Infinite possibilities, infinite dangers.

***DEADLY CLASS*, with WES CRAIG & JORDAN BOYD**

A darkly humorous crime/romance drama set in the 1980s San Franciscan underground. Told through the eyes of a bunch of desolate, deranged, and dangerous teens who are enrolled in a shadowy academy that trains the next generation of the world's greatest assassins. It's just like normal high school, except the daggers in your back are real.

***SEVEN TO ETERNITY*, with JEROME OPEÑA & MATT HOLLINGSWORTH**

A stunningly illustrated and imaginative high-fantasy epic following the tragic life of Adam Osidis, last man standing in an order of disgraced knights. He is tasked with transporting an evil god to the ends of the earth to save all living things from eternal enslavement. When all men have relented their free will, one man must choose for all.

***LOW*, with GREGG TOCCHINI & DAVE McCAIG**

Ten thousand years in the future, humanity has fled into the oceans to escape from the radiation of an ever-expanding sun. Now, one family must return to the surface to find the key to save what's left of their species. An aquatic sci-fi exploration of the power of positive thinking, the way thoughts can shape reality, and the struggle to keep hope alive in a world determined to drown itself in sorrow.

***TOKYO GHOST*, with SEAN MURPHY & MATT HOLLINGSWORTH**

An eco-conscious cyberpunk thriller set in a dystopic tech-ed out future Los Angeles, where all of humanity has forsaken a grim and poisoned reality for the infinite distractions and pleasures of the virtual world. Corporate Enforcers Led Den and Debbie Decay are sent into the Garden Nation of Tokyo to infiltrate the last tech-free place on earth. What they find there will change their lives forever and alter the fate of the planet.

You can grab the Vol. 1 trade paperback of any of these series for just \$10 at your local comic book store or bookstore, or download a digital copy. That's a lot of comics for little money! Watch this space for more GIANT GENERATOR announcements, new series, sneak peek previews, and exciting news from Rick Remender and the many artists and creators he collaborates with to bring you the most exciting comics on earth.

COMING SOON



LOW #18

"OUTER ASPECTS OF INNER ATTITUDE," Part 3 of 4

Tajo makes a desperate final attempt to save what's left of the city of Salus, but the darkness in her past threatens to engulf the embers of hope.

ON SALE NOW!



SEVEN TO ETERNITY #6

Adam must choose between the road that will save Zhal or the one that will save himself.

ON SALE: May 24



DEADLY CLASS #28

Saya's mysterious savior offers her a deal that will change Kings Dominion forever. But it's a contract signed in blood...

ON SALE: May 24



BLACK SCIENCE #30

"FORBIDDEN REALMS & HIDDEN TRUTHS," FINALE!

The Dimensionauts are back together, and not a moment too soon!

Grant McKay's greatest challenge awaits: saving everything that ever could be!

ON SALE: May 31



BLACK SCIENCE VOL. 6 TPB

After years adrift in the chaotic Eververse, the McKays finally reunite in their home dimension. But it's far from the happy end they expected. To save all there is and ever will be, the Dimensionauts need to cut deeper into the Onion than ever before!

Collecting *BLACK SCIENCE* #26-30

ON SALE: July 19



TOKYO GHOST HC

The Isles of Los Angeles 2089--humanity is addicted to technology. Getting a virtual buzz is the only thing left to live for, and gangsters run it all. And who do these gangsters turn to when they need their rule enforced? Constables Led Dent and Debbie Decay are about to get a job that will force them out of the familiar squalor of LA and into the last tech-less country on Earth: The Garden Nation of Tokyo. Collecting *TOKYO GHOST* #1-10

ON SALE: July 5

SNEAK PREVIEW



SHIRTLESS BEAR-FIGHTER!

LEHEUP

GIRNER

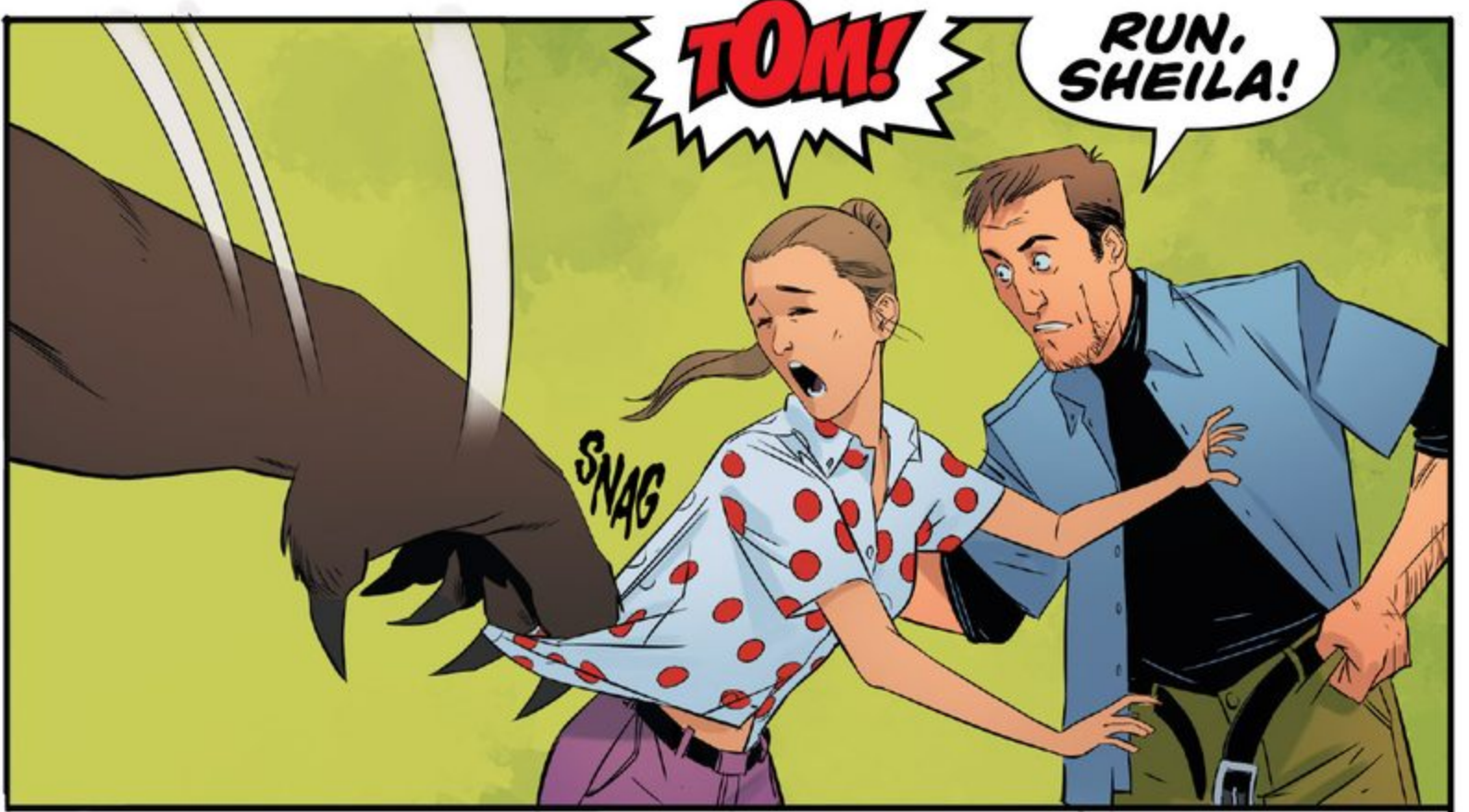
VENDRELL

SPICER

LANPHEAR

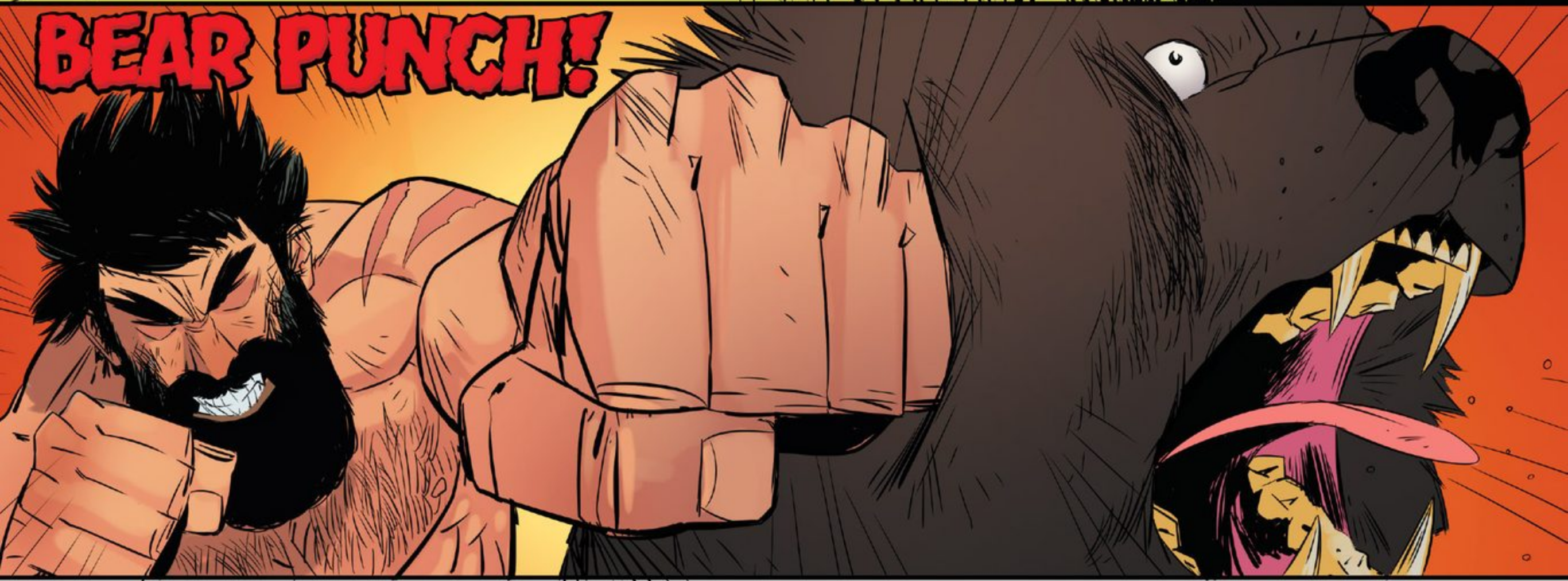


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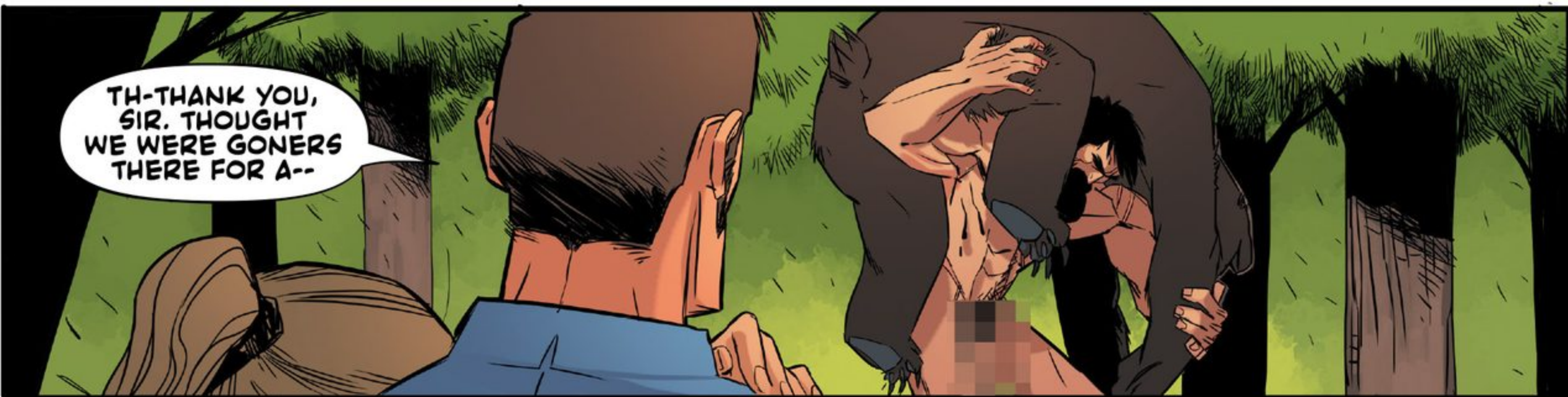
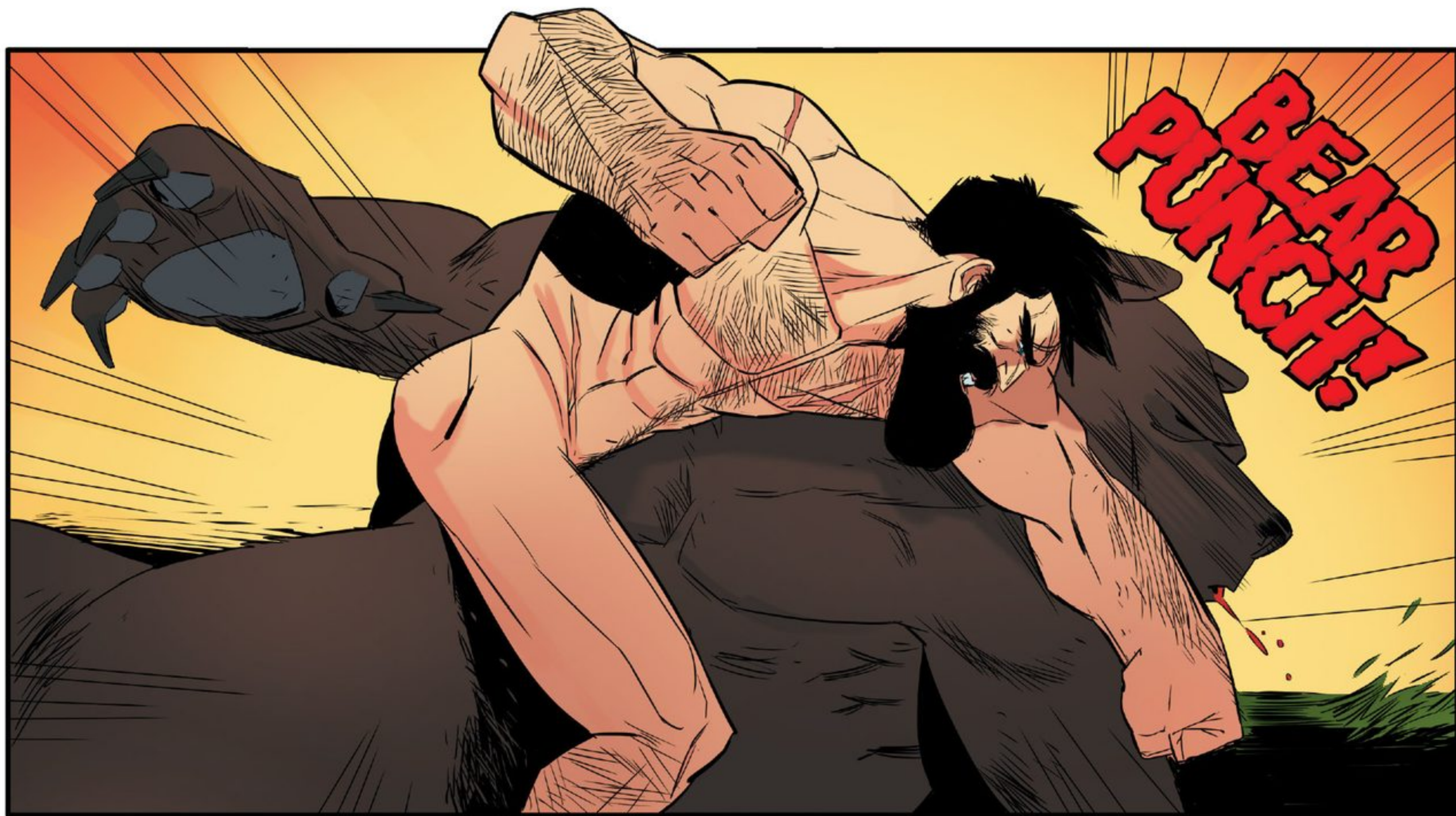


RRROOAAA--!



BEAR PUNCH!





TO BE
CONTINUED
IN

SHIRTLESS BEAR-FIGHTER! #1 ON SALE JUNE 21ST!

NEXT ISSUE

REMENDER • CRAIG • BOYD

DEADLY CLASS



